Intimidation of people who default in paying dues

2877. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that certain credit card issuing banks send hired goons to intimidate people who default in paying dues;

(b) whether any complaints have been received to this effect; and

(c) what action would Government take to discipline such banks that take law unto themselves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that complaints have been received from credit card customers regarding recovery agents resorting to questionable methods to recover the dues. The credit card issuing banks have, however, denied such allegations.

(b) and (c) RBI have received some complaints from credit card holders against issuing banks alleging intimidation and harassment for recovery of dues. These have been taken up suitably with the banks concerned for redressal and appropriate remedial action.

Income-Tax raids on educational institutes

2878. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of educational institutions subjected to Income-Tax raids in the last three months; and

(b) how much, unaccounted wealth has been detected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No search warrant u/s 132 of the Income Tax Act, 1961 was issued/executed against any educational institution during the last three months, *i.e.* 1.5.2005 to 31.7.2005. However, the premises of some of the educational institutions were surveyed u/s 133A of the Income Tax Act. Apart from that, some persons, allegedly connected with these educational institutions were searched.